

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 12 and 20 (which are the only independent claims) have been amended.

Applicant thanks the examiner for the telephone interview courteously granted on August 23, 2006. During the interview the proposed amendment to claim 1 was discussed. The examiner indicated that, subject to a further search and subject to further consideration, if the amendment were made the claim would be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 distinguish from the art for the reasons explained below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103: Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey et al. (US Patent No. 6,587,217) in view of Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,289).

With respect to the above rejection, only claims 1, 12 and 20 are independent claims and the following discussion shows how claims 1, 12 and 20 distinguish from the art. Dependent claims 2, 5-6, 8-10, 13 and 15-19 distinguish from the art for the same reasons as their parent claims.

There are two key elements that distinguish applicant's claims (as amended) from the art. The first distinction is the fact that applicant's claims call for a workstation with a generic document processing driver (e.g. a generic printer driver). No information about the document processing device (e.g. the printer) is stored on the workstation. A conventional workstation has a driver for each printer (or other document processing device) to which the work station is connected. The second distinction is that an interface is opened through the network directly from the workstation to the document processing device (e.g. to the printer) in order to obtain

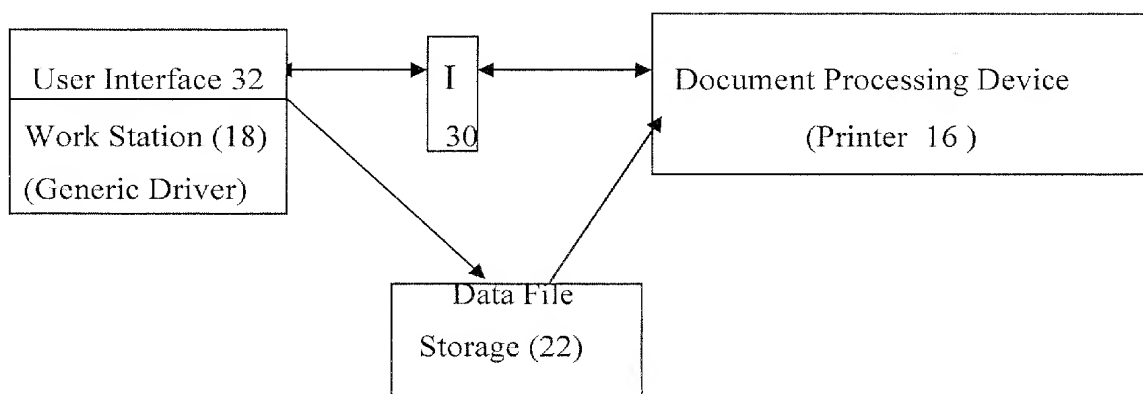
the operational settings that the generic printer driver needs to prepare a document for processing (e.g. for printing)

The applicant's system involves a network that includes a work station and various types of document processing devices. The document processing devices are devices such as printers, fax machines, plotters, etc, each with its own operational settings. In order to use a particular one of these devices a user must first access the particular device's operations settings, so that a document sent to the device can include the appropriate operational settings.

Applicant's work station does not store the information concerning the operational setting of any of the document processing devices. That is, the driver on the work station is a generic driver. When a user desires to use any particular document processing device, an interface is opened to that device. For example, the user can be presented with a web page that accesses the operational settings of a particular device.

A data file is then prepared on the work station, and this file together with the appropriate operational setting is sent to a Job File Store (JFS). A URL identifying the document is then sent to the document processing device. Finally the document processing device uses the URL to access the document and perform the desired operation.

Applicant's claim 1 will be discussed first. The following picture explains the steps in applicant's claim 1. The numbers in the boxes are those used in applicant's specifications.



Claim 1 is directed to a method of first activating the interface 30 between the work station and the printer 16. There is a user interface 32 to work station 18. Utilizing user interfaces 32 and 30 a user can select the operational setting for the printer 16. (the numbers on the above diagram are the number used in the specifications)

Claim 1 specifies (in part):

“ locating a network connection from a workstation that has a generic driver to a document processing device that is connected to said network, said generic driver requiring operational settings from said document processing device in order to process a document on said document processing device,

activating a first interface between said document processing device and a workstation whereby said workstation can access a plurality of operational setting of said document processing device;

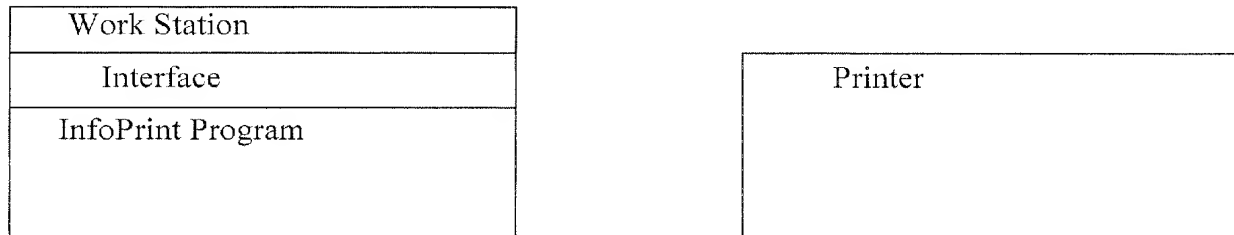
providing a user interface to said workstation, whereby a user can through said user interface and said first interface select operational setting for said document processing device”.

In the applicant's system, no information about the printer is stored in the work station. The interface 30 can be opened to any printer on the network in order to obtain information about any printer. The fact that the program (i.e the printer driver) in workstation 18 is generic (that is, contains no information about and printer) provides the advantage that an interface can be connected to any printer on the network.

The system described in the Lahey reference has an entirely different configuration. The system shown in the Lahey reference stores the operations setting of the document processing device (i.e. the printer) in a program on the work station.

Thus, in Lahey's system, there is not need to open an interface between the workstation and the document processing device in order to obtain the operational settings of the document processing device.

The following diagram illustrates the relevant parts of the system described in the Lahey reference:



The interface to which the examiner refers in the Office Action is the interface to the InfoPrint program. The InfoPrint program is stored in the workstation.

The interface to the InfoPrint program is described at column 7, lines 15 et. seq. of the Lahey reference as follows:

“The job ticket 40 may be created on the client computer 4a, b, c using the InfoPrint Submit software 10 installed thereon. The InfoPrint Submit software 10 includes a graphical user interface (GUI) displayed on the monitor 14a, b, c that the user may use to create the job ticket 40. The InfoPrint Submit software 10 then translates the job ticket 40 created thereby to a format compatible with the InfoPrint MPC server 6.....
The user creates the job ticket 40 by entering information into different fields and selecting specific options presented in the GUI 60. Standard user interface mechanisms are preferably implemented in the GUI 60 to provide the user with the necessary functionality and ease of use.”

Thus, in Lahey, the user has an interface to the Info Print software that presents the operator with the various options available. In applicant's system an interface is

opened to the document processing device, for example to the printer. These are two entirely different ways of accomplishing the same overall end result of telling a device how a job should be handled.

Applicant's claim specifically calls for "activating a first interface between said document processing device and a workstation". For example, this might involve activating an interface between a printer and a workstation. It is not reasonable to read this language in applicant's claim on the interface to a program stored in the workstation as the examiner has attempted to do.

Applicant's system specifically does not store information about any printer in the workstation. Hence, an interface to a printer has an entirely different purpose and effect from an interface to a program stored in the workstation as is the case with the interface in the Lahey reference.

While the above discussion specifically refers to claim 1, the same reasoning applies to the other independent claims 12 and 20.

For the above reasons applicant respectfully requests re-consideration and allowance of independent claims 1, 12 and 20 and dependent claims 2, 5-6, 8-10, 13 and 15-19.

Claims 3-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey in view of Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,289) as applied to claim 1 in the Office Action and further in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826). Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahey et al. (US Patent No. 6,587,217) in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,816).

The additional references cited by the examiner in the above rejections were cited to show various other aspects of the system. These references have nothing to do with opening an interface between the work station and the document processing

device. Thus, claims 3-4, 7, 11 and 14 are patentable over Lahey and the other references for the same reason as explained above in that Lahey (and the other references) do not show opening an interface between the workstation and the document processing device.

Conclusion: Allowance of claims 1-20 as amended is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elmer Galbi".

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